

# Part 1 - Literacy Information

Kasapidis, William PCHS Task 2: how your thinking has changed about incorporating writing in your arts classroom.

Writing has always been an important aspect of my classroom. In the arts, especially in the fine arts, incorporating writing has been challenging and rewarding. Students in the fine arts want to make art. When I implement writing in a project there is always a slight resistance. I have explained to my students, from the lowest to the highest level, that writing about your work will make you a better artist. Creating art comes easy to some students. Having to write about their creation is a bit more difficult.

I have always worked hard to provide the students with vocabulary words and have given them ways to incorporate those vocabulary words in writing about the artwork they are viewing or about their own work. We, as a Fine Arts PLT, have incorporated art criticism writing and artist statement writing in our curriculum at all levels of art.

In art criticism, the students have to describe, analyze, assess, and critic artwork. Sometimes the art work is projected on the screen for them as a Start-up assignment. Sometimes the students critique their own work or one of their peers. The expectation is for each student to be able to write a description of the work, a written analysis, a written assessment, and a written criticism. At first this is a difficult task for the students but as they develop their art vocabulary and practice this writing style it becomes much easier for them by the end of each semester. It is important to continue this writing exercise through each level of art.

Another way of implementing writing literacy is having the students write an Artist Statement about their work and incorporate the writing in their art portfolio. The artist statement allows the students to talk about their work and accomplishment through the written word. We provide the students with example statements and place the information on Blackboard for the students to view. Students practice writing statement in the classroom about other artist's work and then finally write their own in their portfolio.

I don't know if my thinking has changed about incorporating writing in the arts. I believe it just has evolved and the incorporation of writing in the classroom for the art has been getting easier. It has been challenging at times to have students do writing and/or reading in the Visual Arts. I believe that writing in the classroom has made the students look at art more carefully and better understand the vocabulary which is being assessed in the art classes.